

## Develop a Few Good Lawn Care Habits

- 1** Keep your mower blades sharp! After every 8 or 10 hours of mowing, they will need to be re-sharpened. Sharpen or have blades sharpened at a 35 to 45 degree angle.
- 2** Use a mulching mower; clippings are a great natural source of nitrogen. Only bag clippings if you notice a fungal disease develop.
- 3** Mow, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. A healthy cutting height of 2½-3 inches will crowd out weeds, keeps moisture in the soil and supports deeper, healthier roots. For summer mow on the highest setting as possible.
- 4** Avoid mowing your lawn when it is wet.
- 5** Delay mowing at least 24 to 48 hours after fertilizer applications.
- 6** Grubs in your lawn are a major problem! Control them with Scotts GrubEx, Bayer 24 Hour Grub Killer, Bayer Season Long Grub Control, or Milky Spore. Best application time is May to July.
- 7** Eliminating grubs from your lawn should reduce a mole problem. However, moles also eat earthworms, which are desirable in the garden. So if you have a mole problem, try a mole repellent like MoleMax in addition to a grub product.
- 8** Water in the morning, slowly and deeply 1" once a week or ½" twice a week during dry spells. Shallow watering will create weak root growth, resulting in thatch and disease.
- 9** Best time to sow grass seed is September in NE Ohio, 2nd best time is April. Over-seed established lawns to thicken. Patch small areas either time to prevent future weeds. Seed after core aeration or dethatching.
- 10** Start fertilizing when temperatures are consistently in the 40's. Grass actively grows at 42 degrees. Use slow-release, granular lawn foods for continuous feeding and no run-off.
- 11** Check your soil pH annually; the ideal range for lawns is 6.2 to 7.0. Apply lime to raise the pH if needed, 50 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft.
- 12** Try a four step fertilizer program to keep your lawn healthy year round; apply at Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day, plus Halloween with good fall weather.
- 13** Use a fungicide or insecticide approximately two weeks before the problem occurred last year, or immediately when seen. Prevention is better than the cure.
- 14** Treat lawn weeds when they are actively growing with a lawn safe herbicide.
- 15** Read labels and follow instructions on all products for horticultural use.

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